SCSEP Region IV Conference Call

Thursday, November 30, 2006

ATTENDEES: (Darren, these are people who I knew were on the conference call.

Colorado: Audrey Krebs, State of Colorado, Aging and Adult Services
                    Lynn Dyatt, Rocky Mountain SER

New Mexico: Doug Caulderwood, New Mexico

Utah: Darren Hotten, State of Utah, Aging and Adult Services
                    Mike Faulkes, Salt Lake City Utah
                    Nancy Morrell, Utah

                    Kent
                    Bill

I WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Utah (Darren Hotton)

Darren Hotton welcomed everyone and called the conference call meeting to order at 12:00 a.m. MT, 1:00 noon Central Time and 2:00 Pacific Time. Darren requested that participants place all phones on mute.

II LETTER TO DOL   – Utah (Darren Hotton)

Darren emailed a copy of the letter that was sent to Gail Gibson and addressed to the Secretary of Labor. The letter stated that Region IV Coalition wanted the Department of Labor to place a high priority on getting the TEGL through to enable the reauthorization process to begin as soon as possible. Darren thanked Audrey for passing along the information to us from the Northwest Region.

Audrey stated that the letter definitely helps and that it is taken very seriously by the Department of Labor.

III   SPARQ2 Q & A (Mathematica)

Darren then introduced Rose Prichard from Mathematica (MPR). Rose thanked Darren for the opportunity to present at our Region IV Coalition conference call.

Rose stated that Mathematica has a session scheduled with DOL next week to review, plan and implement short term and long term changes for SPARQ2. She does not expect any major changes to occur.

Rose then stated that she had emailed a Power Point Presentation to Darren for us to use and follow during the conference call. She titled the presentation *SPARQ2 Future Directions*. The agenda started with a brief introduction:

INTRODUCTION:

Management Reports: Currently, there will soon be two reports available in SPARQ2. They have placed their focus on getting everyone transitioned from the recent proposal changes that affected everyone on October 1, 2006. With that now over and successfully completed they will get more reports as soon as time and resources allow. The management reports will enhance the reporting for grantees and sub-grantees. You can get at least one or two follow up reports. They are 90% there.

Enhanced Security: The enhance security function needs some tightening and they are working on that.

QPR revisions to handle transfer credit (Q2): This was designed so that you do not have to start from scratch. You can capture information for the participants transferred and not have to reenter everything. Both the donor and recipient will receive credit on the QPR.

SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS:

Revisit: How to make it work. Still not happy with the way it is working. Will review and rework.

Refinement: This is on-going. Will continue.

Miscellaneous: They want to pay attention to feedback, i.e., how to use the participant search function., etc.

NEW SPARQ2 FUNCTIONALITY:

Mathematica developed SPARQ2 to be more functional in reporting to give the grantees and sub-grantees more ways to analyze and maintain data.

Grantee Extract: Each grantee will be able to get a full dump into Excel on any given participant showing activity from beginning to placement to exiting the program. If SPARQ2 doesn't generate the reports you need or want, you can develop your own analysis with the raw data.

Ad-Hoc Reporting Capability: The data grids will be in table format. SPARQ2 will give splices of information that is helpful. With the slices in data you can save views and customize as you wish.

Possible Changes required by new SCSEP legislation/reauthorization: The legislation did not make a whole lot of changes, in fact, it could simplfy things.

Data element validation: Will not happen before 2007.

In summary, Rose stated that she has presented a high level summary. DOL is looking at using precedences set by other programs. They will be doing sampling routines. She stated that when you do eligibility that you make sure when you are enrolling participants that you have everything required to prove eligibility and that you have all the documentation to prove what you have entered. You want to assure that your paper trail is consistent. They will take random samples by establishing sampling routines.

Rose asked if there were any questions.

Lynn asked if we could get any management reports now and she stated that yes, we could get some now and more will be available later.

No other questions.

IV   OLDER AMERICAN'S ACT Colorado - (Audrey Krebs)

Darren then asked Audrey to report on the Older American's Act. Audrey stated that she had spoken with Gail Gibson and Gail told her that the TEGL has been prepared and is running through the system. They are targeting January 1, 2007 to be approved using the TEGL for authorization. Audrey cautioned that you do not start anything until you hear from DOL that it is okay.

Audrey reminded everyone to make certain they modify their participant slots and to report the information that is changed. Remember, the modifications will also impact your performance goals.

V DOL UPDATES (DOL)

Darren then asked if anyone from DOL had joined the conference call. No one had.

VI REVIEW TEGLS - Arizona (Joel Millman)

Joel was unable to participate in the conference call. Will report later.

VII COALITION CALL DISCUSSION Utah (Darren Hotton)

Darren stated that DOL does not want to pay for the Region IV Conference call any longer. The rationale is that the Northeast Region is not sponsored or paid for by DOL and they do not want to pay for ours. Darren asked for suggestions and responses from those in attendance. The general consensus that people wanted to keep the conference call. Suggestions put forth were:

1. Someone stated they felt there was a free site for conference calling;
2. Each group could sponsor one call;
3. Everyone could pay for their own long distance call for the meeting;
4. The conference call could be held every other month;

 After much discussion Audrey agreed to have Colorado sponsor the January meeting. Darren is going to check and see if he can do something in February. It was also agreed that Audrey check into the cost of the conference call and see if this is doable and what options there might be. This will be discussed at the January meeting.

The next conference call will be scheduled for January 18th at the regularly scheduled time:

    1:00 p.m. Eastern Time
    12:00 noon Central Time
    11:00 Mountain Time

The Region IV Conference call ended at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Dyatt, State SCSEP Coordinator of Colorado
Rocky Mountain SER